

CLAIMS

I Claim:

- 5 1. A method for receiving a product notice signal comprising:
 receiving a signal;
 notifying a user when the signal is addressed to the product; and
 recording a signal event in a substantially permanently manner.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein receiving a signal comprises:
 monitoring a communications channel;
 decoding a signal received from the communications channel; and
 recognizing a message in the decoded signal.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein decoding a signal comprises at least one of
 demodulating a radio frequency signal, demodulating a plurality of radio
 frequency signals selected according to a numeric sequence, scanning wired-
 network activity for a predetermined network address, scanning wireless-
 network activity for a predetermined network address, demodulating a carrier
20 received by way of a switched-network telephone connection, demodulating a
 carrier received by way of a cellular telephone connection, extracting digital
 data from a cellular data system signal.
- 25 4. The method of Claim 2 wherein monitoring a communications channel
 comprises:
 determining an anticipation window when a signal is anticipated; and
 enabling communications channel monitoring during the anticipation
 window.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein determining when a signal is anticipated comprises:

5 comparing a digital identifier to a current time value; and
 declaring an anticipation window when the digital identifier matches the
 current time value.

6. The method of Claim 2 further comprising capturing either a portion of the
10 message or the entire message when a digital identifier in said message
 matches a local digital identifier and when the message is a signal message.

7. The method of Claim 2 further comprising:

15 capturing a time value from the message when the message is a time-
 beacon; and
 storing the time value in a time clock.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein notifying a user comprises enabling a visual
20 indicator when the signal is addressed to the product.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein notifying a user comprises:

25 extracting an alphanumeric message from a signal message when the
 signal is addressed to the product; and
 displaying the alphanumeric message to a user.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein recording a signal event comprises storing at
 least one of a Boolean message received indicator, a message type indicator,
 an alphanumeric message and a time indicator.

11. The method of Claim 1 wherein recording a signal event comprises at least one of breaking a fusible link, electrically programming a memory and maintaining continuous power to a memory.

5 12. A product notice receiver comprising:
detector capable of receiving a signal;
notification unit capable of notifying a user when a signal addressed to the product is received; and
non-volatile memory capable of storing an indication when a signal
10 addressed to the product is received.

13. The product notice receiver of Claim 12 wherein the detector comprises a message decoder capable of converting a signal into a message.

15 14. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 wherein the detector comprises at least one of radio frequency receiver, spread-spectrum receiver, wired network interface, wireless network interface, a telephone interface, a cellular telephone interface, a cellular data interface, a 2G interface and a 3G interface.

20 15. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising a signal anticipation unit capable of generating an anticipation signal when a signal is anticipated and wherein the detector further comprises a disable input signal for either disabling the detector or causing it to operate in a low-power mode
25 and wherein said disable input is driven by the anticipation signal.

16. The product notice receiver of Claim 15 wherein the signal anticipation unit comprises:

time clock; and

comparator capable of generating an anticipation signal when a value
provided by the time clock matches a digital identifier.

17. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising a time clock that is capable of storing a new time value when the detector receives a time beacon.

18. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising a message register capable of storing either a portion of the message or the entire message when a digital identifier in the message matches a local digital identifier.

19. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 wherein the notification unit comprises a visual indicator that is capable of providing a visual indication to a user when a signal addressed to the product is received.

20. The product notice receiver of Claim 13 further comprising alphanumeric memory capable of storing an alphanumeric message extracted from the signal message and wherein the notification unit comprises an alphanumeric display that is capable of presenting the alphanumeric message to a user.